

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a purified cell population comprising stem cells for introducing into a patient, comprising:

- (a) obtaining adipose tissue from said patient;
- (b) processing said adipose tissue to separate the cells therein from ~~ether tissue components~~lipids; and
- (c) purifying the separated cells from ~~ether tissue components~~the lipids; wherein said method does not include isolating stem cells from other purified cells purified in (c), thereby preparing a purified cell population comprising adipose tissue-derived stem cells.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said purified cell population further comprises one or more cells selected from the group consisting of: red blood cells, white blood cells, fibroblasts, ~~fibroblast-like cells~~, neutrophils, monocyte/macrophages, and basophils.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said purified cell population further comprises one or more tissue components selected from the group consisting of: extracellular matrix polypeptides ~~or fragments thereof~~, proteoglycans, cytokines, and growth factors.

4.-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the patient is an animal having a tail, and said adipose tissue is obtained from the tail head region of the patient.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a composition comprising purified adipose tissue-derived stem cells for introducing into an animal having a tail, comprising:

- (a) obtaining adipose tissue from the tail head region of said animal;
- (b) processing said adipose tissue to separate the cells therein from ~~ether tissue components~~lipids; and
- (c) purifying the separated cells from ~~ether tissue components~~the lipids, thereby preparing a composition comprising purified adipose tissue-derived stem cells.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said composition further comprises one or more cells selected from the group consisting of: red blood cells, white blood cells, fibroblasts, ~~fibroblast-like cells~~, neutrophils, monocyte/macrophages, and basophils.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said composition further comprises one or more tissue components selected from the group consisting of: extracellular matrix polypeptides ~~or fragments thereof~~, proteoglycans, cytokines, and growth factors.

24.-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a composition comprising purified stem cells for introducing into a patient, comprising:

- (a) processing collagen-based tissue obtained from a patient to separate the cells therein from ~~ether tissue components~~lipids;
- (b) purifying the separated cells; and

(c) placing said separated cells in a container,
wherein said method does not include isolating stem cells from other cells
purified in (b), thereby providing a composition comprising purified stem cells.

33.-36. (Cancelled)

37. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein said collagen-based tissue is adipose tissue or umbilical cord matrix.

38.-79. (Cancelled)

80. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a purified cell population comprising collagen-based tissue-derived stem cells for delivery to a patient, comprising:

(a) obtaining collagen-based tissue from said patient;
(b) processing said collagen-based tissue to separate the cells therein from other tissue componentslipids; and
(c) purifying the separated cells,
wherein said processing comprises contacting said collagen-based tissue with a series of device comprising an array of screens, and wherein said method does not include isolating stem cells from other cells purified in (c), thereby preparing a purified cell population comprising collagen-based tissue-derived stem cells.

81.-95. (Cancelled)

96. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a purified cell population comprising collagen-based tissue-derived stem cells for providing to a patient, comprising:

(a) obtaining collagen-based tissue from said patient; and
(b) processing said collagen-based tissue to isolate the cells therein from other tissue componentslipids,

wherein said processing comprises contacting the tissue with a surface to which the tissue adheres,

and wherein said method does not include isolating stem cells from other cells isolated in (b), thereby preparing a purified cell population comprising collagen-based tissue-derived stem cells.

97.-150. (Cancelled)